

# **Mississippi Arts Commission – Folk Art Apprenticeship Program Fiscal Year 2015 Program Guidelines**

Next application deadline: Monday, March 3, 2014

Applications must be submitted through eGRANT, postal mail, or delivered by hand to MAC's office by the due date. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

Please submit Folk Art Apprenticeship applications no earlier than 30 days prior to the March 3rd deadline. Applications received prior to this date will be returned.

## **Overview**

The Folk Art Apprenticeship program helps to assure the survival, development and continued evolution of community-based traditional art forms found throughout Mississippi. The program allows master traditional artists to pass along their unique skills to promising novice artists that work in their art form. The master artist works with the apprentice on a one-on-one basis to teach specific aspects of their tradition.

Many types of traditional artists can benefit from the program, including boat builders, quilters, old-time fiddlers, traditional potters, basketmakers, and blues guitarists. The program is focused on supporting forms of creative expression that have been an important part of community life for many years and that are passed on informally rather than being taught through formalized classes. Please consult with the Folk and Traditional Arts Director (contact information below) to see if your art form qualifies.

The Apprenticeship grant award is \$2,000. No cash match is required. The master artist and apprentice work together to determine the budget for their project. The majority of the grant funds (80% or greater - \$1,600) should be set aside for the master artist's teaching fee. The remaining amount can be used to purchase supplies (only expendable items, not permanent equipment) and for mileage incurred by the apprentice. Mileage should be estimated using the State of Mississippi's current mileage reimbursement rate (.56 per mile as of 1/1/14).

Please note: Apprenticeship grants are reported income for the recipients. MAC is required to report the grants to the IRS and issues tax documents (a 1099 form) to the master artist.

## **Who May Apply**

The master artist and their potential apprentice must apply together. The master artist should be recognized within their community as an accomplished artist within a community-based traditional art form. They should be active in the art form; either performing or creating new work on a regular basis. The master artist should have developed their skills through an informal, traditional manner rather than through formalized courses.

The apprentice should not be a beginning artist. Since the apprenticeship will take place over a short period of time, the apprentice should have enough experience in the art form to benefit from the intensive, one-on-one training. For example, an apprentice blues guitarist should be able to play well enough to work on more advanced techniques during the apprenticeship.

Preference will be given to master artists and apprentices who are members of the same community or cultural group. One of the desired outcomes of the program is to support the continuation of traditional art forms within the communities where they originated. Therefore, it is important that both the master artist and the apprentice have a deep understanding of and commitment to the culture that their art form reflects.

## **Review Criteria**

A panel of experts in various traditional art forms reviews the Apprenticeship applications. Applicants should address the following criteria in their application:

- The master artist's demonstrated mastery of their artform and the connection of their work to local traditional culture (the work's connection to tradition applies to both master artist and apprentice). (40 points)
- Evidence that the master artist's work demonstrates creativity within a community-based tradition (40 points)
- Evidence that the apprentice has sufficient skill to benefit from working with the master artist (20 points)

MAC gives funding priority to first-time applicants to the program that represent an underserved tradition.

## **How to Apply**

The master artist and apprentice must apply together to the Apprenticeship program. Apply online on MAC's eGRANT system or mail in one original and one copy of the following items in the order listed:

- Folk Art Apprenticeship Application
- Folk Arts Apprenticeship Description Forms completed by both the master artist and the apprentice. Please provide as much information as you can about yourself and the proposed apprenticeship.
- One copy of work samples from both the master artist and the apprentice. The accepted formats are listed below.
- A description of the work samples, including title (if applicable), date of the performance or when the work was completed, and any other information necessary for describing them.

**Foodways Applicants** - In addition to the items listed above, please include:

- A short narrative (up to one page in length) that explains the history and importance of the food(s) the master artist makes within their cultural or regional community.
- Three to five letters of support for the master artist. These should be written by members of their community who have a good understanding of the artist's skills, such as representatives from local social organizations or cultural groups. The letters should verify the artist's skills and knowledge, give details about the context in which the artist's food tradition occurs, and explain the role of the applicant in helping to continue a particular foodways tradition.
- Two to three letters of support for the apprentice. These should be written by members of their community who have a good understanding of the apprentice's skills, such as representatives from local social organizations or cultural groups. The letters should speak to the apprentice's skills and knowledge and their future potential as a practitioner of the foodways tradition being focused on in the project.
- Copies of newspaper or magazine clippings featuring the master artist that detail their contributions to their specific foodways tradition. If available, please also include any clippings that feature the apprentice.

Please do not staple or bind your application materials.

## Work Sample Formats

*Note: Except for video, all work sample types can be submitted electronically through the eGRANT system.*

• **Performance-based Artists:** Applicants such as traditional musicians or dancers should submit one copy of an audio or video recording demonstrating their performance ability. Acceptable formats include CD or DVD. The recording must have been made within the last three years. Please submit the best quality recording of your work you have available. Musicians should include multiple songs on their sample, each demonstrating different aspects of their playing ability (for example, a fiddler would want to include a faster breakdown tune as well as a waltz to show the range of their playing). Recordings should be appropriately labeled with the applicant's name and description of the performance (including song titles and type of song).

• **Visual Artists:** Applicants such as quilters or potters should submit one set of digital images that feature six different samples of work completed within the last three years. The images should be saved in JPEG format at 72dpi, with no image wider than 1600 pixels. They should be saved on a CD-R disc with each image numbered to correspond with the work sample listing. Only the required images should be included on the CD-R. They should not be saved as part of a presentation program file (like PowerPoint). The work must have been completed within the last three years. Please submit the best quality images that you have available.

• **Foodways Artists:** Foodways applicants should submit one DVD at least ten minutes in length that demonstrates their artist quality and the traditionality of their foodways practice. The recording should show the master artist (depending on length of process) preparing for or creating a dish they plan to teach the apprentice. As part of this demonstration, the master artist should include comments on the cultural importance of particular ingredients, techniques or elements of the recipe. They should also speak to how and where they learned to prepare the

respective dish. The recording must have been made within the last three years. Label the disc or tape with the applicant's name and description of the foodways tradition (i.e. canning, biscuit making, pig roasting, or pecan pies).

Foodways apprentices must also submit one DVD at least ten minutes in length. The recording should show the apprentice (depending on length of process) preparing for or creating a traditional dish which has inspired them to learn more about regional or ethnic cooking. The apprentice should speak to how and where they learned to prepare the respective dish, and why it has inspired them to further their knowledge of traditional foodways.

## **Return of Work Samples**

For applicants submitting work samples by mail (rather than through eGRANT), please notate on the disc case whether or not you would like it returned. Applicants who want their samples returned by mail must provide a self-addressed mailer with sufficient postage attached to it. Work samples may also be picked up between July 1st and 31<sup>st</sup> at MAC's office during regular business hours. Please make arrangements with the Folk and Traditional Arts Director before visiting the office. All work samples will be discarded after July 31st if no instructions are given for their return.

## **Application Timeline**

**March 3, 2014** – Folk Art Apprenticeship application deadline

**April 2014** – Review of applications by the grant panel (the specific panel date will be available by mid-March. Applicants are allowed to attend panels.)

**June 2014** – MAC Board meets and makes final funding decisions on all applications

**July 1, 2014** – Applicants are notified whether or not their application was funded. No information on the grants will be available from MAC prior to this date.

For more information on the program, contact MAC at 601-359-6030.